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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

702 Meadow Court  
Decorah, Iowa 52101  
March 6, 1999

Mr. William Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kennard:

I have recently been informed of an A.P. story by Jeannine Aversa according to which a new ruling has made internet access subject to federal regulation, with the result that dialing on to the internet through a local access provider now becomes subject to long distance charges.

If this is the case, it clearly means that internet access will be priced beyond the reach of many people, including retirees such as myself but going far beyond that. This would make internet access and its benefits a privilege for the well to do and provide a windfall for phone companies. That strikes me as another case of special interest lobbying producing a result hostile to the interests of the general public, one clearly harmful to - among other things - the prospects of anything approximating equal access to public officials. Elitist and anti-democratic. Once again, those with means are given a greater right to have their voices heard, and commercial interests succeed once more in bending the first amendment to their will.

I trust that you will help to have this matter reconsidered.

Sincerely,



Richard S. Ylvisaker